

**NORFOLK ISLAND
FOURTEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2013**

**NORF'K AILEN
DIISEM MENETS LARNEN WATHING HAEPN
INAA
FORTIINTH LEJESLIETEW 'SEMBLE
WEDNESDAY 26 JUUN 2013**

1 The Legislative Assembly met at 10.01 am, the Speaker, Hon David Buffett AM MLA, took the Chair and read Prayers

2 **LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR MR PORTER MLA**
Leave of absence unanimously extended to Mr David R Porter MLA

3 **CONDOLENCES**
Mr Evans recorded the passing of –

Britney Quintal Christian

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members stood in silence

4 **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE (10.05-11.05 AM)**

Deputy Speaker took the chair at 10.36 am
Speaker resumed chair at 11.02 am

Time for questions without notice having expired, on motion of Mr Nobbs, time for questions without notice was extended by 5 minutes (11.10 AM)

5 **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**
Responses were provided to:

5 **Mr Nobbs asked the Minister for Finance -**

Is it correct that in negotiations related to funding assistance between the Norfolk Island and Commonwealth Governments over the past three years, the non participation by island residents and entities in the Commonwealth taxation system has been raised as an impediment to a greater level of assistance being provided to Norfolk Island?

6 **Mr Nobbs asked the Minister for Finance -**

Is the Minister aware that some persons or entities, "ordinarily resident" on Norfolk Island actually contribute to the Commonwealth tax system and has this issue been discussed with the Commonwealth?

7 **Mr Nobbs asked the Minister for Finance -**

Has the Minister an indication of the actual amount paid into the Commonwealth tax system on an annual basis from Norfolk Island?

8 **Mr Nobbs asked the Minister for Finance -**

a) Is it a fact that an employee under contract (or some other arrangement) to the Commonwealth or a State, based on the respective Commonwealth or State remuneration scale, who is so employed and "ordinarily resident" on Norfolk Island, is excluded from and thus avoids payment to, the Commonwealth under its taxation regime? and

- b) If so, has there been a calculation of the tax due to the Commonwealth annually if those salaries so specified were subjected to assessment under the Commonwealth's taxation arrangements and if so, what is the figure so calculated?

9 Mr Nobbs asked the Minister for Finance -

If, as proposed in the Roadmap, the Commonwealth taxation regime was applied to the salaries of Norfolk Island Government employees, whose salaries/contracts are based on the current Norfolk Island remuneration scale, what would the total take to the Commonwealth tax office be?

6 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

- 1) Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism, Mr Snell – **Funding Agreement dated 14 June 2013**
- 2) Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan – **Customs Duty Exemptions**
- 3) Minister for the Environment, Mr Ward - **NI Fishing and Marine Report 2nd Annual Report – June 2013**
- 4) Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan – **Virements**
- 5) Minister for the Environment, Mr Ward - **Letter from Dr Glynn Maynard – Summary of NI Quarantine Survey to date**

7 STATEMENTS OF AN OFFICIAL NATURE

The following statements were made –

- 1) Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism, Mr Snell – **Signing of Funding Agreement on 14 June 2013**
Mr Nobbs moved –

THAT the House take note of the Statement

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voice

- 2) Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams – **Immigration Policy – Processing of further applications**
Mrs Ward moved –

THAT the House take note of the Statement

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voice

- 3) Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams – **Sustainable Growth Strategy for NI**
Paper tabled: Policy Paper – Sustainable Growth Strategy for NI
Mrs Ward moved –

THAT the House take note of the Statement

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voice

- 4) Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams – **Promotional Campaign to promote immigration changes**
Paper tabled: NI Welcomes new residents
Mr Nobbs moved –

THAT the House take note of the Statement

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voice

- 5) Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams – **Expressed thanks to -**
 - a) **Visiting Counselors from the Department of Education for students at NICS re the fatal car accident; and**
 - b) **Professor Peter Muhlhausler of his years of work on preserving and maintaining the Norfolk Island Language**
- 6) Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams – **Celebration of Tynwald Day on 5 July 2013, in Norfolk Island**
Paper tabled: Hon Clare Christian BSc MLC speech to the community on Anniversary Bounty Day and Press Release
- 7) Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams – **Proposed changes to Child Welfare Act**
Paper tabled: Letter from Robyn Fleming, FAS – Child Welfare Act – proposed amendments
- 8) Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism, Mr Snell – **Visit to New Zealand and meeting with Air New Zealand regarding airline services to NI, accompanied by General Manager of the NIGTB**

ORDER OF THE DAY**8 APPROPRIATION BILL 2013-2014**

Resumption of debate (Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan) from 12 June 2012 on the question – THAT the Bill be agreed to in principle

Debate ensued

Question put

Bill agreed to in principle on the voices

**Paper tabled: Mr Sheridan tabled updated supporting budget documents –
Statement of Financial Policy and Objectives - Budget 2013/14
Summary of Administration's Accumulated Funds
Letter from Public Service Association**

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage

Mr Sheridan moved –

THAT the Bill be agreed to

Question put and agreed to on the voices

9 FIXING OF NEXT SITTING DAY

Mr Evans moved –

THAT the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 17 July 2013 at 10 am

Question put and agreed to on the voices

10 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Nobbs moved –

THAT the House do now adjourn

Debate ensued with Mrs Ward participating

Question put and agreed to on the voices

AND THEN the House at 1.25 pm adjourned until Wednesday 17 July 2013 at 10.00 am

Gaye Evans
Clerk to the Legislative Assembly

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present except Mr Porter MLA by leave